Accident caused by a Truck Carrying Acid

2622. SHRI YERRA NARAYANA-SWAMY: Will the Minster of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) what is Government's reaction to the recent accident involving a truck carrying acid, resulting in 17 deaths;

(b) whether the Ministry of Surface Trasport had anticipated such accidents on the Roadways;

(c) if so, what are the reasons for lack of any safety precautions instituted by Government; and

(d) steps proposed to institute measures to prevent such accidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (d) The Government have always expressed its displeasure over such accidents. No accident, of whatever nature, can be anticipated. The Government have already provided sufficient safeguards under the Motor Vehicles Act and Rules to prevent such accidents. The State Governments are also impressed upon from time to time to take adequate measures to properly implement these rules.

Reconstitution of Port Trusts

2623. SHRI P. UPENDRA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Port Trusts of various Ports have been reconstituted recently;

(b) if so, who are the non-officials included in these trusts and what are their credentials; and

(c) how many posts of Chairman of the Port Trusts are vacant at the moment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b) The Boards of Trustees for Kandla, Bombay, Mormugao, Cochin, Madras, Visakhapatnam, Paradip and Calcutta Ports were reconstituted with effect from 1.4.1994. As per the Major Port Trusts Act, 1963 besides Chairman, Deputy Chairman, and official Trustees representing various Central Government Department/ Ministries / Organisations/ State Goverments, the Central Government appoints such trustees as it may deem expedient to be appointed from amongst persons who in its opinion are capable of representing;

1. Labour employed in the Port.
2. Shipowners.
3. Owners of sailing vessels.
4. Shippers.
5. Such other interests as in the opinion of Central Government ought to be represented on the Board.

(c) As of date, the post of Chairman, Madras Port Trust is vacant.

Violation of Traffic Rules and Safety Norms

2624. SHRI S.S. SURJEWALA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) what measures the Ministry propose to take in view of the recent Muzaffarnagar accident in which a large number of lives were lost;

(b) whether the traffic super safety norms are only observed in their violation on the Indian Roads; if so, whether Government would fix responsibility for such gross violations, resulting in the death of thousands of innocent people daily;

(c) whether these accidents occur also on account of the condition of roads being the same as they were 50 years ago; if so, whether Government would start construction of Express Highways and improve the condition of existing roads on priority basis; and

(d) whether the trucks, four wheelers